

Ted  
Linnert/OCP/R8/USEPA/US  
04/02/2009 09:57 AM

To Victor Ketellapper/EPR/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Another Orr out of the water.....

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03/20/2009 11:45 AM

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cc

Subject

Mr. Linnert;

I am writing to clarify a recent incident which happened in Libby. I think it ties into your community involvement efforts.

I have a March 2, 2009 email from EPA contractor Sandy Matheny, who is facilitating the O&M workgroup, stating that there would be no O&M meeting on March 11, 2009. I received information in the afternoon of March 11 that there had indeed been an O&M meeting that morning at City Hall.

I attempted to ask Supervisor of City Services Dan Thede what was discussed and his response was both severe and bizarre. Suffice to say Mr. Thede will not admit to involvement. What is your facilitator trying to hide behind closed doors at City Hall? Is this more shenanigans tied to our buildings that EPA destroyed?

Perhaps I could request the minutes of this meeting. They won't tell me much as the minutes of O&M meetings are generally very vague, but I may be able to at least discern the topic of the secret meeting.

Is there opportunity to register a complaint in this meeting being held out of the public's eye?

You have some serious problems with Community Involvement in Libby Mr. Linnert. I would like to review your Community Involvement Plan (CIP) that the newspaper reported was being developed by a series of interviews.

You already know that I have concerns with the interview you did with Libby HS teacher Gene Reckin. You used some information culled from that interview to disrupt our CAG in

early February. Coupled with removing pay for contractors, removing the PA system, and shutting off the heat, you have certainly disrupted the CAG in recent months.

The interview with Gene Reckin was supposed to be confidential according to Mr. Reckin. You breached that confidentiality when you sent out an email stating that his students had gone to a CAG meeting, they were asked to describe the meeting in one word, and published those 17 discouraging words that you attributed to the students.

Members of the CAG have since found out that four students attended a single CAG meeting, there was no school assignment to describe the meeting, you and Mr. Reckin issued that information to disrupt Public Involvement in the CAG, you wrote those 17 discouraging words.

In the course of presenting the first information to come out of your CIP you did several things.

First, you breached confidentiality with the teacher who supplied that information.

Second, You drug the schoolkids into a very controversial issue when they had no knowledge that the issue would be made public.

Third, the information you released is false. There was no assignment, those kids didn't write those words. You and Mr. Reckin fabricated that information to be used in the CIP in an effort to disrupt the CAG.

The very first information coming out of your CIP efforts scuttles the entire effort. How can this community trust anything written in that CIP when the first glimpse is so easily proven to be agitation and deception on the part of EPA?

The OIG must limit the scope of their investigations to elements of Waste, Fraud and Abuse. I will submit that your efforts to use the collection of information for agitation meets the litmus test of these elements.

All of the CIP will be tainted with your deception. The time, effort and the money spent on it, will be a total waste of taxpayer funds.

You have put those schoolkids in a very uncomfortable position with this stunt. Raising the ire of the community has put them and their parents in harms way.

You have done great harm to the Governments' credibility with this action. The people of Libby deserve to know that they can trust the EPA. This is the site of more documented death and disease than anything in EPA history. How can we trust that EPA is actually reducing exposures when we can't trust you to involve the community in your decisions?

Please release the results of your collection efforts to the CAG for review before you publish any of this CIP. I think that the CAG would be willing to re-interview your respondents to see if their responses actually reflect the tenor of your report.

Sincerely DC Orr

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